

Salem United Methodist Church

December 2022



Thoughts from Pastor Paola...

Can you guess what the single most often repeated message throughout the Christmas story is? We may think it would be "Come and Adore" or "Go Tell it on the Mountain", but NO, it is not. The number one message is "*Fear not*".

Zechariah, who is terrified by the news that he will become the father of John the Baptist, receives a message from the angel saying: "*Don't be afraid.*"

The angel comes to Joseph to tell him, "*Don't be afraid*" to take Mary as your wife and become the earthly dad of Jesus.

When Mary is terrified by the news that she will have a child at a young age with no husband, an angel comes to her and says "*Do not be afraid.*"

The shepherds who were afraid by the glory of the Lord that was shining around them, see an angel telling them "*Fear not.*"

How can we not be afraid? This week we remember the first anniversary of the tragic Waukesha Christmas parade. The memory of the fear and dark terror of what happened that day is still in front of our eyes. How can we not be afraid of all that is happening in our community and around the world?

Some may try to not be afraid by avoiding all that may bring fear to them: emotions, images, news. Suppressing all that creates fear and anxiety doesn't work. Actually it will increase it and will also cut us off from experiencing life and joy.

What did Zechariah, Joseph, Mary, and the shepherds do when they were afraid? They surrendered their fears by putting their lives completely in God's hands.

The Light is about to come into the world. We can feel our fears, we can name them, then we can bring them to God, and let Him lift them up.

Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Luke 2:10

Blessings,
Pastor Paola

The Season of Advent

The Light is coming into the world!

During the season of Advent, we will meet those who have been bearing the Light into the world and we will be inspired by them to become Light-bearers ourselves.



Sunday, November 27

First Week of Advent - **HOPE**

Mary - Luke 1:26-38



Sunday, December 4

Second Week of Advent - **PEACE**

Joseph - Matthew 1:18-25

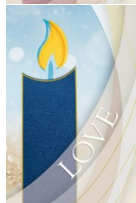


Sunday, December 11

Third Week of Advent - **JOY**

Elizabeth - Luke 1:39-45

Toy Drive and Visit from Santa



Sunday, December 18

Fourth Week of Advent - **LOVE**

John the Baptist - Luke 3:4b - 14



Saturday, December 24 - 4PM

Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service

LIGHT of LIGHT

The Light has come into the world!

John 1



Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Carol Service



Sunday January 1, 2023

SERVICE OF
COVENANT RENEWAL

NOT JUST A NEW YEAR...A NEW YEAR *with God!*

John Wesley introduced the annual covenant renewal service in 1755. This service reminds us of our commitment to be witnesses to Jesus Christ in the world by the way we live and love every day in the new year.

hospitality

(n.) beyond being friendly



January 8 - 22

Hospitality is the very heart of Christianity. Let's learn together how to go beyond being friendly.

January 8

Be Hospitable to Each Other

Ephesians 4:2-6; 11-13; 15-16; 31-32

January 15

**Open Hearts, Open Minds,
Open Doors**

Hebrews 13:2

January 22

**Welcoming & Serving our
Local & Global Community**

Matthew 25:34-40

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF DAVID



Spiritual Lessons from the Life of David

Join us January 29, February 5 & 12 as we learn
Spiritual Lessons from David.



Our Thursday Night Bible Study is taking a Christmas Break. We will resume on Thursday, January 12th!



Confirmation



Upcoming Classes
Dec 4th from 10:30 - 12:30

Not a Normal Christmas
Advent • Christmas • Epiphany



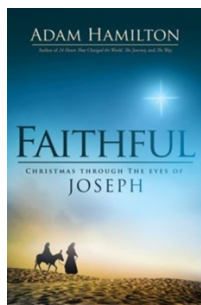
Chapel Service *Next Door*

Wednesday, December 21
11:00 – 11:30 AM

At New Perspective

Come worship with our neighbors! Pastor Paola will lead worship in the chapel on the 3rd floor. Communion will be served. Please arrive 15 minutes early to check in at the front desk.

Future services: January 18 & February 15



ADULT CLASS

Meeting after worship
all 4 Sundays of Advent
(Nov 27 - Dec 18)
Faithful by Adam Hamilton
Meet in the Conference Room
(Last room on the right)

Join us as we examine Christmas through the eyes of Joseph. Absent from much of the biblical narrative, Joseph never spoke a word, but his courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God's salvation plan for humanity.

Sign up is located in the Happenings Center.
It is not too late to sign up.



LIGHTING THE
ADVENT WREATH

*Thank you for all who signed up to
light the advent wreath.*



This year's Christmas special offering is dedicated to the ministry of Healing Hearts. Healing Hearts of Southeast Wisconsin is a community-based organization whose mission is to serve and support grieving children and their families.

It started in October, 2009 and offers free peer-support programs for children and the significant adults in their lives who are dealing with loss due to death, divorce, trauma, addition, abandonment, incarceration, deportation and other life other life altering events. As of today Healing hearts provides support to over 50 children and their families.



www.healingheartswisconsin.org

Healing Hearts
of Southeast Wisconsin

(262) 751-0874

Sunday School Schedule - December 2022

December 4th - Communion Sunday

- * Teens stay in service.
- * Confirmation class after service.
- * Crafts for Elementary school.

December 11th - Special Service NO SUN SCHOOL Childcare Provided

- * All Sunday School Schools participants help with the service.
- * Kids help bring toys down to the alter for "blessing of the toys/gifts."
- * Santa arrives at 10:00 am
Please invite a friend and family for pictures, sweet treats, & fun games.

December 18th - Celebrating Jesus's Birth

- * Whole group Sunday School class. Celebrating Jesus's Birth.

December 25th & January 1st
No Sunday School Class





Wear Your Christmas Sweater in Church

On December 11th



Hanging of the Greens



Join us on Sat, Dec 3rd at 10:00 AM
Come and decorate the church
together!



Youth
Christmas
Dec 10 & 11
7PM Sat - Sun
after Worship



SLEEP OVER

Church Family Tree



We are starting a new tradition. We are inviting each family to bring an ornament to add to the Salem tree during worship service on **December 4th**. You may donate or take your ornament back home after January 8th.



The holiday season is here and we encourage anyone who would like to join the choir for the Christmas season. We would be more than happy to have you. We practice on Wed nights at 7:20-8:20 and on the Sunday morning that we sing we practice at 8:30. Would love to have you join us, especially for the Christmas Eve service.

Gift Collection Continues!!!

It's that time of year again, to help share Salem's love of community, and generosity to our Waukesha neighbors.

Salem's Outreach Ministry will be collecting Christmas items for **two local organizations** to include items for the young and old alike!

The **Christmas Clearing Council** has been helping families make Christmas happen for 70 years!!! In 2021, they coordinated giving to more than 2,100 families and 4,800 children in Waukesha County. Salem will be holding a gift card and **toy drive from Nov 20th - Dec 11th** to benefit the Christmas Clearing Council's one day Toy Shop. Any new, unwrapped toy or book for children ages birth to 11 are welcomed, as well as, \$10, \$15, \$25 gift cards to Kohl's, Walmart, or Target for the teens.

Put in the red toy barrel in the narthex!



Does your Christmas giving seem to come in a bunch?
Then there's a way to help lessen the crunch!

Give some seniors lots of Christmas cheer
by providing gifts for a package this year!

Walmart, Pick 'n Save, or a Walgreens gift card,
pick one up for \$10, now that isn't hard!

Stamps to help a senior send out a letter,
Communication with family and friends
couldn't be better!

Receiving this package would certainly lend,
A big smile of delight to our disabled
and elderly friends!

Thank you, Salem!



ERAs Senior Network's goal is to provide a package for approximately 900 local older adults through their Holiday Giving Program. They are focusing on the basic needs, and will fill the packages with gift cards and stamps.

Eras 2022 Wish list items:

\$10 Walgreen Gift Cards

\$10 Pick 'n Save Gift Cards

\$10 Walmart Gift Cards

Books of Forever Postage Stamps

*Please include receipts with each gift card.

We will be collecting the items from November 20th through December 11th. Our items will be presented by our youth, and blessed during Worship on December 11th. More information to follow on the Outreach bulletin board.



Waukesha's Overflow Homeless Shelter will open in November and stay open until April. This shelter is available to men and women (different floors) and families (3 rooms so families can stay together). ***They would welcome some help with cleaning supplies and client snacks. Check out this link for their items.*** <https://a.co/705Z9gM>

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

**Support Salem while shopping
at Amazon!**

How-to instructions are located
at The Happenings Center.

Snack Collection



For Hadfield Elementary

Salem is having an ongoing snack collection to provide low-income children snacks throughout the school year. There will be a basket on the counter in the narthex.

Snacks ideas include:

Individually packaged Goldfish, Animal Crackers, Fruit Snacks, Granola Bars, etc

For more info contact The Outreach Ministry



Deliveries have already been made.

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR DONATION!

MORE snacks are needed for the WINTER months. Drop off in Narthex.

Thank
you ❤️

You are making an impact.
See thank you note below
from Hadfield Elementary!

Thank you for the snack donation to Hadfield students the past two months. They really help our students be successful in the classroom. Students struggle to focus when they are hungry. Your snack gifts make a big difference.

Lori Roth
Hadfield Secretary

Looking ahead:

Sunday, Feb 5th 2023



6th Annual

Fund-Raiser for Haiti

We will be having a cookie bake-off to benefit St. Joseph's Clinic in Thomassique, Haiti.



For those of you new to Salem, here is a little background info. Pastor Paola's daughter, Betta, worked at the medical clinic in Haiti for one year. She told us of the many malnourished children who needed Medika Mamba (a milk product) to help them survive AND thrive.

Worship will be dedicated to the Haiti malnutrition program.

We have three chefs cook or bake the same item, then with a donation of any amount to the clinic, you may taste the food items and vote for your favorite. The winner receives a "major award"! Below are pictured a few of the past winners. If you have any questions or would be willing to be a cookie baker, please let Gladys Roszkowski know.



Chili



Egg Dish



Banana Bread



GREAT NEED NOW!

Please consider the Food Pantry with any donation.
They are very low at this time.

Volunteers and Diapers are greatest need right now.

**Please bring the following to church
and place in the Pantry basket:**

Baby wipes, Diapers/Pull Ups, especially larger sizes (Open packages are accepted), Canned fruits and veggies, Cereals, Personal hygiene items (soap, shampoo, deodorant, laundry detergent, toilet paper)

If preferred, you may give a monetary donation. Use the pew envelope and label it **FOOD PANTRY**. Checks can be made to Salem UMC with "Food Pantry" in the memo line.



BOARD of TRUSTEES

THE LATEST FROM THE TRUSTY TRUSTEES

- ⇒ We are happy to report that under-counter lights for the kitchen will be installed soon. Thank you, Caryn, for all the back and forth with the lights finding the perfect fit.
- ⇒ Landscaping project: Jim Seegers has been working on some of the dirt fill and leveling, until a new company can finish the job. We are hoping by next spring the project will be completed.
- ⇒ TEKO completed the repair of the boiler just in time for winter. They will also be fixing the heat issue in some of our classrooms.
- ⇒ Esther Rachel Circle is in the process of building the bulletin boards in Fellowship Hall. Can't wait to see them.
- ⇒ Doug and his wife changed all the clocks last week. THANK YOU.
- ⇒ Dave has finished the door panels and is continuing to repair the tiles. Some door buttons are showing wear so Dave is trying clear nail polish hoping this might delay replacing the keypads. Thank you, DAVE.
- ⇒ This Winter we should have the sidewalks open to New Perspective making it easier for our members and guest to come to church.

VIVA ITALIA!



Fri, Mar 10, 2023 @ 6PM
A night of food and fun at Salem!
Fundraiser for Italy Mission Trip



Viva Italia Fundraiser!

There will be a silent auction at the event.
More details to follow.

DARTBALL



We play every Tuesday at 7PM at local churches. The Schedule for the Season is posted on the kiosk in the Narthex. For more information, please contact Doug Lindsay at 414-758-5325.

We'd love you to join us!



- Harriet Marks entered into Eternal life on Monday 11/21. Her wish has come true. She is resting peacefully with the Father. She passed in her sleep. Her memorial service will be on Wed, Dec 7th here at Salem UMC. Visitation will begin at 10:00 am with a memorial service at 12:00 pm. A luncheon will be served following the service. Continue to pray for her family.
- Please hold Mikayla in your prayers. She is 13. She is a close friend of Abigail Buxengard. She is in the hospital with blockage in her digestive system and suffering with continue seizures.
- Prayer for Mark Anastasi, John's son who is having neck surgery.
- Please pray for Sharon Link's friend. He had a second heart attack.
- Please keep Paul Wojcik in your prayers. He is home and continuing therapy. He is very weak.
- Mary Jo Martin asked for prayers for the Glover Family. They all have COVID.
- Please pray for Marsha Everson's mom. Her cancer has returned and many decisions need to be made.
- Please pray for provision of volunteers for the Food Pantry and the extreme need for diapers.



Directory & Birthday Updates

We are updating our directory and birthday list and we need your help! Hard copies of the current directory and birthday lists will be available on the counter by the library for the next few weeks. Please check to make sure all of your information is correct. Make corrections directly on the hard copy. If the information is correct, please initial so we know it was verified.

Thank you!!!

Lectionary Reading for December

December 4

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

December 11

Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11
Luke 1:46b-55

December 18

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

December 25

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)
John 1:1-14



There is a need for Fellowship Refreshments

Coffee is provided. Refreshments can be SIMPLE! Please sign up at the Snack Bar in the Narthex. **THANK YOU!**